

Introduction: You Never Know What the Future Will Bring

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Preparing this issue of *English Teaching Forum* has been especially rewarding for me because it is connected to the beginning of my career in English language teaching. I could never have imagined that two people I became acquainted with in graduate school, I would work with in a professional journal twenty years later.

The first connection is to a classmate. Kent Markle and I graduated in 1982 from the University of Arizona with MA in TESL degrees. We kept in touch intermittently over the years, but only recently did I find out that in addition to his career as an English teacher, Kent is an accomplished blues musician who has played at numerous festivals and clubs and on studio recordings. When blues music was chosen as the topic for a feature article in the Forum, he was a natural to write it.

The second connection is to an author. Books and articles by Professor Marianne Celce-Murcia of the University of California at Los Angeles were on the required reading list for many of the classes I took in graduate school. One of the books she edited, *Teaching English as a Second or Foreign Language*, we pored over because it covered so much in the field. (It's now in the third edition and still has a familiar apple on the cover!) When I began editing articles for this issue, I was delighted to see one by Marianne, an educator whose work I have admired for many years.

Perhaps you have had similar unexpected encounters with the past, such as when you meet a former student on the street or see a former colleague at a conference. It can be exciting and heartwarming to find out what the future has become. I hope that you have the opportunity to see the past and present united and to reflect on your experiences and accomplishments. I also hope you have achieved things that you could never have imagined when your career began. May this be a rewarding issue for you, too! — **WPA**